

Remarks

The Office Action is discussed in detail below. Claim 1 has been amended by placing the limitation of claim 5 into claim 1. Claim 5 has been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections 102

Claims 1-4, 14-15, and 17-18 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Doan et al (US 6,150,253).

Claim 1 has been amended to placing the limitations of claim 5 into claim 1. Doan fails to teach or suggest the steps of forming a second layer over said conductive material; forming a sidewall surface in said second layer; forming third layer over said sidewall surface; and removing a portion of said third layer while having the characteristics of the remaining limitations of claim 1 (see "Allowable Subject Matter", Paragraphs 5 and 6). The rejection under 35 USC 102 has been overcome and applicant respectfully requests it be removed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doan et al (US Patent No. 6,150,253) in view of Cronin et al (US Patent 5,651,857).

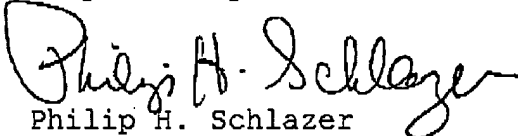
Claim 16 depends from claim 1 and includes all of limitations of claim 1 as well as additional limitations. As noted above, claim 1 has been amended such that Doan fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of the amended claim 1. Cronin fails to make up for the deficiencies of Doan so that Doan in view of Cronin fail to

teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1 and, hence, all of the limitations of claim 16. The rejection under 35 USC 103(a) is overcome and applicant respectfully requests it be removed.

SUMMARY

In view of the above amendments and remarks, claims 1-4 and 6-33 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejection, and notification of allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or suggestions regarding the prosecution of this application, he is asked to contact applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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